

REMARKS

Claims 13-24 are pending. By this amendment, claims 13 and 17 are amended.

The Office Action summary page indicates that claims 16-23 are objected to, but the Detailed Action seems to have omitted the objection. Since the Detailed Action has no rejection of claims 16-23, it is believed that the Examiner intended to indicate that claims 16-23 are objected to as based on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if written in independent form. However, as set forth below, it is submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejects claims 13-15 under 35 USC 103 over Lyles (USP 5,836,412), rejects claim 14 under 35 USC 103 over Lyles and further in view of the Examiner's Official Notice.

Claim 13 recites that the battery pack further comprises a cooling fan that supplies a cooling medium in a direction of the vehicle width. This feature is not disclosed in Lyles. Accordingly, Lyles does not anticipate or render obvious any of the claims.

Claim 13 also recites that the battery pack is disposed between the floor panel and the bottom portion of the seat, the battery pack having a plurality of battery unit cells or battery modules stacked in a longitudinal direction relative to the vehicle. According to the claimed invention, the need for provision of a chamber in an upper or lower portion of a battery pack is eliminated, and therefore the claimed invention allows for a reduction in the height of the battery pack in the vertical direction. Therefore, the battery pack can be mounted easily even if there are severe restrictions regarding the vertical dimensions of an installation space as in the case of an under-seat space.

In contrast, Lyles discloses the structure that the batteries 138 are disposed between the sheet and the floor 304. However, Lyles does not disclose the batteries having battery unit cells or battery modules as required in claim 13, and therefore also does not suggest the claimed feature that battery unit cells or battery modules are stacked in a longitudinal direction relative to the vehicle. Accordingly, Lyles does not anticipate or render obvious claim 13, or any claim dependent therefrom.

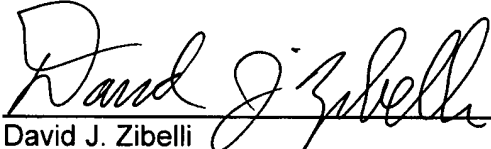
PATENT
Serial No: 10/542,051
Docket No: 10517-281

For the above reasons, it is believed that the application is in condition and receipt of a Notice of Allowance is hereby solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4232 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

Applicants do not believe that any additional fees are required in connection with this submission. Nonetheless, Applicants authorize payment of any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit of any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,


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